

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: WELFARE MINISTER'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

REF: BUENOS AIRES 944, BUENOS AIRES 1245

, DEPARTMENT HAS DISCUSSED MEDICAL CASE OF SANDRA MAIETA WITH DR. DONALD POTTER, DIRECTOR OF DIALYSIS AND PEDIATRIC TRANSPLANTS AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL IN SAN FRANCISCO. ESTIMATED COST OF TREATMENT CAN VARY FROM ABOUT \$28,000 TO \$75,000 OR MORE. AVERAGE WAIT FOR DONOR KIDNEY IS SIX MONTHS DURING WHICH TIME DIALYSIS TREATMENTS COST ABOUT \$18,000. TRANSPLANT OPERATION PLUS HOSPITAL COSTS RUNS ABOUT \$10,000 AND THREE MONTHS OF OUT-PATIENT POSTOPERATIVE TREATMENTS ABOUT \$1,000. ALL COSTS DEPEND ON GOOD FORTUNE OF HAVING NO MEDICAL COMPLICATIONS AND ON TIMING OF FINDING A DONOR KIDNEY. MOTHER IS POSSIBLE DONOR BUT MEDICAL TESTS NOT YET COMPLETED TO CONFIRM THIS POSSIBILITY.

2. DR. JOSE RAMIREZ, ARGENTINE DOCTOR AT CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ARRANGING TREATMENT OF SANDRA.

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HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH GOA OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS COSTS

PRIOR TO PATIENT'S ARRIVAL IN U.S. RAMIREZ ALSO HAS BEEN
IN CONTACT WITH ARGENTINE EMBASSY CONCERNING CASE.

3. DEPARTMENT'S INQUIRIES, CONCERNING HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE FOR PATIENT, RESULTED IN THE HEALTH SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE PURSUING,
THROUGH SOCIAL WORK CHANNELS, POSSIBILITY OF FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE. WE WILL ADVISE EMBASSY OF RESULTS. KISSINGER

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